

APPROVED: Meeting No. 27-96

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 19-96

April 23, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on April 16, 1996 at 7:07 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Also in attendance were Deputy City Manager Julia Novak, Assistant to the City Manager Michelle Martin, Recreation and Parks Director Burt Hall, Superintendent of Recreation Phil Bryan, Senior Center Supervisor Judy Beck, and Senior Citizens Social Services Coordinator Lorraine Schack.

Re: Worksession with the Rockville Seniors, Inc. (RSI) and Senior Citizens Commission.

The Mayor and Council met jointly with RSI Chairman Bob Mentzer and Board members Beatrice Baker, Ed Branges, Gloria Burns, Louise Gregory, Jeannette Jennings, Mary Ryan and Betty Tolson and with Senior Citizens Commission Chairperson Virginia Onley and members Estelle Berberian, Stuart Crump, Joseph Doherty, Winston

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Lark, Eileen Rabson, William Rineer, Marty Roney, and Murray Stein. The following issues were discussed:

1. Senior Center Current Needs and Future Growth

Mr. Mentzer reported that the year had been an eventful one for RSI. They fulfilled their financial obligation to the City with a \$100,000 contribution to the City. Their intention is to also make a \$20,000 commitment to the City and pay for new furniture for the Senior Center. The Planned Giving Program has netted \$25,000 to date and the Memorial Fund has grown so successfully that RSI had to appoint a Vice-Treasurer in charge of these funds as well as those monies raised as a result of the Bingo games. RSI also increased their standing committees from four to seven.

Ms. Onley reported that in August 1995, the Senior Commission convened a Study Panel, chaired by Estelle Berberian, to look at the needs of the Senior Center. The study panel visited local senior centers and found that Rockville's center was a state of the art program. The Study Panel found that there were some additions and expansions needed: establishment of a computer and printer operation, a separate pool and game room, additional meeting rooms, a larger kitchen, and additional crafts rooms.

Ms. Berberian said that in 1995, there were 1,623 members eligible for the Senior Center. However the number will continue to increase to 3,480 in another 10 years, and in the Year 2029, there will be a total of 4,000 members eligible for senior services.

2. Present Needs for Space - Ms. Onley reported that the recent renovations to the Senior Center provided members with only one additional room to be used for the KAT (Kindergarten Activity Time) program. Additional rooms for exercise classes, a card room, an expanded gift shop, office space, and parking were still needed. The Study Panel is studying ways to raise revenues by raising membership fees, charging for use of the exercise room, encouraging an increase in memorial donations and donations from the senior clubs, and increase the fee for rental of the Carnation Room. Ms. Onley said that the space occupied by the nursery school located within the Senior Center used up valuable space and parking which was needed for senior programs. The issue had not yet been discussed with the Nursery School, however, the Mayor and Council agreed that staff should explore the idea of the City reclaiming the nursery school space.

Councilmember Wright suggested that the senior groups and staff seek a bond bill from the State to make the additional improvements needed. Councilmember Marrinan questioned whether any consideration had been given to the idea of a second senior center site. He expressed concern about the expanding number of senior programs and said that this would generate an increase in the amount of traffic at the existing center. Ms. Onley said that some suggestions were made regarding the use of other facilities in the City that could be used as an additional site (e.g., the Lone Oak School). Regarding the use of Lone Oak, Mayor Krasnow commented that this would also cause an impact on the residents in that neighborhood. Councilmember Dorsey questioned whether a senior

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guest membership was available. Staff responded that there was such a membership available and there were discussions about expanding the guest membership program to allow senior citizens who are visiting Rockville, to be able to pay a fee and take advantage of Senior Center programs and classes.

3. Transportation and Traffic - Seniors citizens feel that Rockville's senior transportation services were excellent. There is some concern about the impact the development of the King Farm would have on the Senior Center and surrounding streets. Mr. Hall said that although there were no demographic projections available at the time, the King Farm development would be a major factor, and he said that it would be important to get the Gude Drive entrance built in order to relieve traffic on streets near the center.

The Worksession with Rockville Seniors, Inc. and the Seniors Citizens Commission adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Re: Worksession with Cultural Arts
 Commission (CAC)

The Mayor and Council met with CAC Chairperson Catherine Irwin and members Carole Butler, Kenneth Lechter, Eileen Mader, John Moser and George Northway. A photographic slide show was presented noting the progress that artist Dan Davidson is making on the Courthouse Square fountain base and female sculpture. The following issues were then discussed:

1. Accomplishments of the Cultural Arts Commission

Ms. Irwin reported that the CAC held a retreat on April 20 to discuss where the Commission was and where they were headed in the future. The Commission feels strongly that arts are valuable in the community, and they felt that the Mayor and Council's support of the arts was invaluable. Ms. Irwin described each CAC member's background, which she noted, included a great deal of interest in music, opera, theater, and children's interests. Ms. Irwin complimented Recreation and Parks staff Phil Bryan, Kathleen Moran and Betty Wisda for their dedication to the arts and the assistance they provide the CAC. Some of the CAC's accomplishments over the past year were noted:

- The Courthouse Square Fountain project which involved extensive citizen input, and the implementation of a contest inviting local youth to develop the statue's inscription.
- Master Plan for the Arts - The CAC is proud to have been able to implement so many goals of the Plan.
- The CAC developed a system used by other arts-related groups who submit budget requests for funding from the Mayor and Council.

The CAC also noted priority areas for the future:

- Review and reorganization of the CAC's nine standing committees to restructure into four committees;
- Increase outreach and advocacy efforts;

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- Working with young people;
- Envision where arts in the City should be in the next 5-10 years
- Reaffirm the value of arts to the Rockville community.

Ms. Irwin recommended that the Mayor and Council consider appointing a member of the Cultural Arts Commission to serve on the proposed economic development corporation.

2. Continued and Future Funding of the Arts

- (a) Per capita funding of the arts can not continue at the 1995 level. The CAC asked that the Mayor and Council look at the growing population in the City and reconsider this formula.
- (b) The City should aggressively seek funding from the private and public sector.
- (c) The CAC will encourage in-kind support from private companies

3. Outreach and Advocacy Efforts - The CAC would like to identify and tap into the many culturally diverse groups in Rockville. The Mayor and Council agreed that the arts needed to be expanded to culturally diverse groups and they encouraged the CAC to develop ideas on how to accomplish this. Mr. Hall noted that staff and the CAC were considering ideas for an ethnic festival that would focus on the arts, music and dancers.

The CAC would like to appoint persons to their subcommittees who are not CAC members (e.g., persons from, or who have access to, other communities).

Councilmember Harrison suggested that the CAC could use a visioning process, a sustainability process, or a bench marking technique to identify the issues that the CAC and other boards and commissions should focus on.

The CAC recognizes a need for formal cross-sharing of information between other boards and commissions and they suggested that having a member serve on certain other boards and commissions would be helpful (i.e., a CAC member serving as a liaison on the Planning Commission). Another idea suggested was the establishment of a separate commission to be made up of representatives from each of the City's board and commissions.

Mayor Krasnow noted that the Rockville Arts Place had expanded its programs into City schools by developing art classes and coffee houses for students. She encouraged the CAC and RAP to continue working towards this type of program expansion. Councilmember Dorsey suggested the use of the City's cable television program to focus attention on new art shows. Mr. Lechter said that this would require additional funding and an expansion of the City's public information and cable capabilities; he encouraged the City to consider additional funding for such a venture. Councilmember Harrison suggested the use of the City's Web page for publicizing and generating discussion on the arts. Mayor Krasnow suggested that the CAC do more to advertise programs at Montgomery College.

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Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the
Worksession adjourned at 9:37 p.m.